

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to applicants' remarks received on October 26, 2009. Claims 16 and 19 are cancelled. Claims 1- 15, 17- 18 and 20 are pending.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's arguments, see page 12 line 7- page 14 line 18 filed October 26, 2009, with respect to Claim 1, 6- 9 and 13- 15 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of Claims 1- 15, 17- 18 and 20 has been withdrawn.

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record fails to disclose the claimed invention. **The features of independent claims 1, 6- 9 and 13- 15** directed towards allowable subject matter is determining whether the input operation is a pressing operation or a touching operation by determining whether a signal from the panel becomes stable for at least a predetermined period of time; generating a second signal waveform having a second amplitude which is larger than the first amplitude based on a determination by the input detection means that the signal from the panel has become stable for at least a predetermined period of time, thus indicating the input operation is the pressing operation. **Fukumoto et al. (US PG**

Art Unit: 2629

Pub No 2002/0149561) discloses that the CPU receives an operation input and determine whether the input is touching operation or pressing operation and confirms to the user accordingly. Further more Fukumoto et al discloses that once the user contacted the panel using his or her fingertip a weak vibration (i.e. smaller amplitude) is transmitted to the user (which is first signal) then once the user presses the panel (instead of touching) then a second signal having second amplitude is transmitted to the user. Fukumoto et al does not explicitly disclose the second signal having larger amplitude than the first, but it would have been obvious to have larger amplitude than the first one in order to let the user know that the pressing operation has been received. However fails to disclose **determining whether the pressing operation has been performed based on the signal that is acquired when the user pressed the touch panel become stable for at least a predetermined period of time.** These features in combination with the remaining language of claim 1, 6- 9 and 13- 15 are not taught by the new prior art of record. Therefore claims 1- 15, 17- 18 and 20 are found to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BENYAM KETEMA whose telephone number is (571)270-7224. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday 8:00AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shalwala Bipin H can be reached on 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ B.K. /

Examiner, Art Unit 2629

/Bipin Shalwala/

Application/Control Number: 10/579,497

Page 5

Art Unit: 2629

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629